

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10306 061008Z
ACTION OES-07

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P 060901Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2597
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UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10306

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN IN
SUBJECT: MONEX PREPARATIONS

REF: STATE 167069

1. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE HAS DISCUSSED ISSUES RAISED IN REFTEL WITH DR. Y.P. RAO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF OBSERVATORIES, INDIAN METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT. RAO DID NOT APPEAR HAPPY WITH THE PROPOSED POSTPONEMENT OF THE INDO-US MEETING ON US PARTICIPATION IN MONEX. HE SAID THAT LOT OF SPADE WORK HAD BEEN DONE TO LINE UP REPRESENTATIVES FROM SEVERAL PERTINENT GOI MINISTRIES FOR THE MEETING. ANY POSTPONEMENT OF THIS MEETING AT THIS STAGE WOULD TAKE AWAY THE SENSE OF URGENCY THAT SIGNING OF AN INDO-US AGREEMENT DEMANDS. RAO FURTHER SAID THAT THE WMO/GOI AGREEMENT WAS GOING TO BE VERY BROAD AND WOULD NOT COVER THE PARTICIPATION OF US SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT. THIS PARTICIPATION AND THE QUESTION OF THE USE OF SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY FUNDS HAD TO FORM PART OF A SEPARATE BILATERAL AGREEMENT AND ANY DELAY IN ARRIVING AT SUCH AN AGREEMENT IS NOT DESIRABLE.

2. RAO SAID THAT SUBSEQUENT TO RECEIVING THE JUNE 21 LETTER FROM ROBERT WHITE HE HAD RECEIVED WORD FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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RAMAN AT GENEVA THAT IN FACT THE FORMAL JOINT MEETING WAS GOING TO BE HELD AROUND JULY 17 IN NEW DELHI WE TOLD RAO THAT ACCORDING TO THE LATEST CABLE FROM NSF (REFTEL) THE MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO SEPTEMBER BUT THAT DR. KUETTNER PLANS TO VISIT NEW DELHI JULY 17 TO 19. HE CAN HOLD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON THOSE ASPECTS OF THE

US PARTICIPATION THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY
US AGENCIES.

3. RAO SAID THAT DR. KUETTNER IS WELCOME TO VISIT
NEW DELHI AND EMBASSY CONCURS THAT INFORMAL
DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

4. EMBASSY IS CONCERNED THAT THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE
JOINT MEETING HAS CREATED AN IMPRESSION AMONG GOI CIRCLES
THAT THE US DOES NOT ATTACH THE URGENCY THAT THE INDIAN
SIDE ATTACHES TO US PARTICIPATION IN THE MONEX EXPERIMENT.
THE FACT IS THAT THE EMBASSY, AT BEHEST OF THE USG AGENCIES, HAS BEEN
PUSHING THE

INDIANS TO MOVE FAST IN THIS DIRECTION.

WE RECOMMEND THAT THE US AGENCIES COME TO AN
AGREEMENT ON THE TOTAL US PARTICIPATION IN MONEX ASAP AND
COMMUNICATE THIS TO THE IMD. WE BELIEVE DR. KUETTNER CAN IMPRESS
UPON RAO AND OTHER OFFICIALS THE IMPORTANCE
US ATTACHES TO THEIR PARTICIPATION.

5. SCICOUNS WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN
DISCUSSIONS THAT DR. KUETTNER HAS WITH GOI OFFICIALS
IN DELHI.

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6. PLEASE LET US KNOW KUETTNER'S ETA AND WHETHER HE
WANTS EMBASSY TO MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS. CLARIFY ASAP
WHETHER IN FACT THE INDO-US MEETING ON MONEX IS POSTPONED
AS PER REFTEL SO WE CAN TELL RAO TO DISREGARD THE
COMMUNICATION FROM RAMAN AT GENEVA.
GOHEEN

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